

# HOUSING SECTION NEWSLETTER

City of Flagstaff



## WHAT DOES HOME MEAN TO YOU?

The City of Flagstaff 10 Year Housing Plan is underway, and the Housing Section wants to know “*What does home mean to you?*”. By participating in this very short survey, you are allowing staff to include your name and quote in the 10 Year Housing Plan. Please take the survey here, [Meaning of Home Survey!](#)

On December 1, 2020, City Council declared a Housing Emergency in Flagstaff, prioritizing affordable housing within City operations to create safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities for all community members.

The Housing Plan will define the housing emergency in Flagstaff and will provide goals and strategies to reduce it. As the City implements the Flagstaff 10 Year Housing Plan, the goal is to substantially increase the number of available and affordable housing options for all Flagstaff residents at all income levels.



## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE HOUSING COMMISSION

Flagstaff City Council will appoint five Housing Commissioners in September 2021. The [Housing Commission](#) has required seats for a local builder, developer, and lender. The other two seats are for a low-income housing expert and a community representative. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please apply by August 20th. [Click here for a commission application form.](#)

The Commission strengthens Council's goal to "Support development and increase the inventory of public and private affordable housing for renters and homeowners." Flagstaff's Housing Commission also assures that an open, inclusive, and transparent process is utilized in the discussion, prioritization, and presentation of recommendations that address the community's housing needs.

The Housing Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1 PM-3 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2021. Applicants must reside in City limits and be over the age of 18 years to be eligible to serve. For questions, please email [LBloom@FlagstaffAZ.gov](mailto:LBloom@FlagstaffAZ.gov).

## HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD UPDATES

The City of Flagstaff Housing Authority Board consists of the Mayor and six citizens. The Board oversees the functions of the Housing Authority and assists low-income families with safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities as families strive to improve the quality of their lives. The Board typically meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, currently via [Microsoft Teams](#). Meetings are open to the public and can be joined remotely for public attendance and comment. The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2021. Future meetings may be held in person.

CFHA Board currently has one vacancy for a participant of public housing or housing choice voucher programs. Applications are always accepted and can be submitted online through [the Board & Commissions page](#). Additional information on the CFHA Board can be found on the [CFHA Board page](#).







## NEW RENTAL APPLICATION & SECTION 8 RE-OPENING

On July 15, 2021, the City of Flagstaff Housing Authority (CFHA) moved to a new, more user-friendly online application portal through Haven Connect. Haven Connect offers many services to help with applicant communication, including text messaging support, live updates to applicant profiles, and more.

In addition, Haven Connect will host the [Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher application beginning September 1, 2021, at 8:30 am](#). Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) provide families with a voucher to cover rent over 30% of household income for families earning no more than 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) by household size. All CFHA waiting lists are sorted by residency preference. Residency is verified when an applicant's family nears the top of the waiting list.

If you or someone you know is interested in affordable housing programs offered by CFHA or community partners, please direct them to [flagstaff.az.gov/4374](http://flagstaff.az.gov/4374), which provides direct application links and information about additional housing options.

## EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

The City of Flagstaff Housing Authority (CFHA) is coordinating with the Front Door of Coconino County to administer and deliver Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs). EHVs for the City of Flagstaff will be provided based on a referral from the coordinated intake system at Front Door, followed by an eligibility review by CFHA staff. EHVs are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and prioritize housing voucher support for families who are:

- Homeless;
- At risk of homelessness;
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or
- Were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability.

Interested individuals or families may contact the Front Door Program:

- Holly Creager with Flagstaff Shelter Services, [Holly@FlagShelter.org](mailto:Holly@FlagShelter.org), (928) 225-2533 ex 307; or
- Michelle McManimon with Catholic Charities, [MMcManimon@CC-AZ.org](mailto:MMcManimon@CC-AZ.org), (928) 774-9125 ex 53007.





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PARTNER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



**THREADED  
TOGETHER**



In May 2020, Flagstaff City Council allocated funding to Threaded Together for their Sewing and Textile Employment Pathway (STEP) Program. The STEP program provides women and vulnerable populations the opportunity to learn valuable tailoring and sewing skills through a paid apprenticeship. In addition to gaining competence and confidence as a professional sewist, participants are encouraged to explore their creativity through scholarship opportunities in the Community Classroom. Threaded Together aims to help every STEP apprentice find meaningful work in the textile industry upon graduation.

Threaded Together worked throughout 2020 to aid healthcare and social service agencies with much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE) during mass shortages. In 2020, they made more than 4,000 sustainable, reusable hospital gowns delivered all over healthcare facilities on the Navajo Reservation, as well as countless cloth face coverings for local social service agencies like Flagstaff Shelter Services.

This spring Threaded Together hired their first apprentice and is currently conducting interviews for their second apprentice. The program will ultimately provide three low- to moderate- (LMI) individuals with sewing and textile technical and employable skills through a 9 month, 720-hour vocational training program. Apprentices are provided a per hour stipend for their time allowing them to continue to earn income while dedicating their time to the program. After just two months in the program, the STEP program's first apprentice has already acquired the skills necessary to confidently work on production sewing contracts. She is the main sewist for a production contract with a local pediatric dentist manufacturing weighted blankets to keep young patients calm and feeling more secure during dental procedures.

To learn more about Threaded Together and the many programs they offer please visit [www.threadedtogether.org](http://www.threadedtogether.org).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) UPDATES

On Thursday, June 24th, City staff and the League of Neighborhoods hosted a neighborhood town hall meeting for the residents of the Sunnyside, La Plaza Vieja, Southside, and Pine Knoll neighborhoods. The City was represented by staff from the housing, community development, code compliance, capital improvements, parks, and rec and parking. The residents had many questions about the CDBG program and how funds have been used for projects in CDBG designated target neighborhoods in the past. Housing staff provided an overview of the program and the ranking process as well as neighborhood priority setting and public participation for the CDBG program. Residents and staff discussed ways that the target neighborhoods could be more involved and have a larger role in the ranking and selection process. The meeting was a great opportunity for residents to talk with staff about their concerns and ask questions about infrastructure needs and parks needs in their specific neighborhoods. The discussion was productive and constructive for both the residents and staff. Staff is looking forward to working with the League of Neighbors to create an annual opportunity for residents to meet one on one with City staff to keep this important conversation going.

## INCENTIVE POLICY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING (IPAH) UPDATES

Project Managers held a working group meeting in early July to discuss the required period of affordability for all affordable units. The amount of time a unit is required to remain affordable is a critical component of affordable housing programs because it impacts the number of households that can benefit from the city's affordable housing stock. The City's policy has always emphasized permanent affordability, which was decided through community input and Council direction in the 2009 Incentive Policy for Affordable Housing (IPAH). Stakeholders and working group members at the meeting discussed the idea of implementing a right of first refusal provision on rental properties with expiring affordability periods, which would give either the City or a third party the option to buy the rental property and preserve the existing affordable units. Another idea was to allow more flexibility for developers to come up with their own shorter-term affordable options, such as down payment assistance programs that are forgivable over time. These ideas and others will be discussed in a follow-up meeting about in-lieu options on August 2nd from 1 PM - 3 PM over [Teams](#). For more information about this update, contact Jennifer Mikelson, Housing Analyst, at (928) 213-2744 or [JMikelson@FlagstaffAZ.gov](mailto:JMikelson@FlagstaffAZ.gov).



*Everyone deserves safe, decent, and affordable housing.*